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DDI-1729-68

Executive Registry

88-2741/A

State Dept. review completed

14 JUN 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable William C. Foster
Director, US Arms Control and
Disarmament Agency
Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT : Estimates of US and Soviet
Military Costs

1. I have asked Mr. Bruce Clarke, who heads our Office responsible for Soviet military costing, to be in touch with Mr. Alexander of your staff concerning the meeting you propose in your letter of June 6, 1968.

2. Mr. Clarke and members of his staff will be prepared to explore with you and the DOD representatives the feasibility of the undertaking you have in mind.

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Director

Concur:

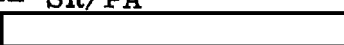


13 JUN 1968

for R.J. SMITH
Deputy Director for Intelligence

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68-2741

UNITED STATES ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY
WASHINGTON

June 6, 1968

DDI-1687-68

OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

Dear Dick:

In preparation for the discussions which we hope to have with the Soviets on strategic weapon limitations, I should like to have on hand the best available estimates of the financial costs for both sides under various assumptions of future increases or limitations of forces.

It seems to me that it would be highly desirable to have a capability here in ACDA for making estimates of this kind, and revising them as changes in facts or assumptions warrant. To do this, however, we would be heavily dependent on basic information provided by DOD for U. S. weapons costs, and by CIA for Soviet costs. There might also be some problems of comparability, which would call for joint effort by the three agencies.

I should greatly appreciate the assistance of the people in CIA who could help us to develop the Soviet estimates. Can this be arranged?

The Honorable
Richard Helms,
Director, Central Intelligence
Agency.

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I suggest an early meeting to get the project started. Would you please designate representatives of CIA to meet with Archie Alexander and some of our Economics Bureau staff on the first mutually convenient date in the week of June 17th. I am addressing a similar note to Paul Nitze, requesting the assistance of DOD.

Sincerely,

Bill

William C. Foster

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